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the heart of a huxter, and the mil-
lion must be destined to wander, like
Jews, over the earth, without the
honour or happiness of a home. But
it is contrary to the nature of things,
and to human nature, that either
capital or speculation should ever fix
their choice upon a land where there
was no political liberty, and of con-
sequence, no personal security,
where virtue, talent, and property
had expatriated, where all the regu-
lar distinctions of rank in society had
resolved into mob, or military; and
where the compelling Power had
drawn every thing of use, or orna-
ment in the Country, to the central
point of the Empire.

It has been said, and well said,
that men become slaves from not
knowing how to pronounce the mono-
syllable, No. Against this disas-
trous and most unrighteous measure,
with my whole soul and strength do
I utter it, NO—and if from igno-
rance, from pique, from apathy,
from infatuation, or from corruption,
my Countrymen become accessory
to the destruction of their own lib-
erties, and their Country's character,
and do not reiterate, without ceas-
ing, the same unqualified negative—
then adieu to IRELAND—to the
mercy and justice of God is she left,
and to the hearts and hands of Pos-
TERITY.

WILLIAM DRENNAN.

Dublin, Marlborough-street,
Jan. 6, 1800.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

THE attention of our astronomical
readers has been frequently cal-
led to the interesting publication en-
titled, "Evening Amusements; or,
the Beauties of the Heavens display-
ed; by William Freud, M.A." and
in order that they may be more ful-
ly acquainted with this author's sen-

timents and train of thinking, the
following extracts from the conclu-
sion of his little volume for 1813, are
presented to their notice.

In addition to its relation to the
subject more immediately treated
on, it is curious and interesting to
behold the efforts of a vigorous mind,
driven out of the beaten track, and
pursuing the bent of his genius, unfet-
tered by system; thus affording
important instruction in the science
of the philosophy of the human
mind. His concluding paragraph is
more fully illustrated, when it is
known, that William Freud lost his
Fellowship at Cambridge on account
of the freedom of his religious op-
inions, and his exertions to free those
members of the Church of England,
who conscientiously objected to the
Thirty-nine Articles, from the ne-
cessity of subscribing to them in the
English Universities.

ON looking back to the origin of
this work, and the contents of this
volume, I cannot but notice the ef-
fects of continued attention to a sub-
ject, when the mind is divested of
prejudice. When I began this work,
I viewed the Heavens, as I had been
accustomed to consider them, accord-
ing to the philosophy in which I was
instructed, and which I had taught
in the University of Cambridge.
Some time had elapsed since I held
the office of Tutor of a College, in
which, had I continued to this time,
it is not improbable, that, by going
over and over again with my pupils
the same principles, I might at this
day have agreed with Newton, that
some quantities are greater, and
others less than nothing, and, with
his disciples, that the world is held
together by powers inherent in its
minute particles. A great philoso-
pher has recommended, that we
should, at times, examine our opi-
nions, trace them to their source,

explore the foundation on which they rest, how far they are our own, or the opinions of others. This is important advice; and circumstances have been favourable to me in following it; as I have gone over again, with the eyes of circumspection and matured experience, the ground which I trod in my youth; and an attachment to names has not prevented me from pursuing other paths than those prescribed by custom or authority.*

I was amused, by a conversation of some tutors of colleges, and masters of arts, not long ago, at Cambridge; in which my opinions were discussed, and my conclusions denied. I smiled to think, that had I remained in the same place, I might probably have joined in the same censure. The Ptolemaick was equally tenacious with the Newtonian school, of its own opinions; and Copernicus escaped its persecution, by ceasing to live, just as his book was published. We are now grown wiser. We may smile at each others opinions on systems of worlds, and Newton's nothings: but all must go through the ordeal of investigation; and there is no Inquisition to uphold the system of gravity. I was once not aware, that my studies would lead me to the conclusions which this volume contains. As they presented themselves to my mind, the reader has them; it is for him to use them as he pleases, provided he examines them with the same desire to come at truth, as the author entertained when he formed them. Should I live to accomplish my intended work, I may have to communicate many other things, occurring in the course of my observations, that do not coincide entirely with received opinions. Every day's experience

teaches us, that the wisest have every day something to learn; and they are to be pitied, whether individuals or nations, who are content to tread, over and over again, the same beaten ground; not considering, that to our lower philosophy may be applied what is so beautifully said on a more important subject, by our Holy teacher: "Aim at perfection, for your Father in Heaven is perfect."

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

THERE is, perhaps, no event in our lives of more importance, than the choice of that trade or profession by which we are to gain a livelihood; nor is there any duty a parent has to perform more arduous, than that of placing his son in a situation congenial to his taste and disposition.

If a boy is put to a business for which he has neither taste nor genius, it cannot be expected that he will attain proficiency. He has, as it were, to swim against the tide. Perseverance, seconded by a train of favourable circumstances, may procure him wealth, but it is next to impossible that he can rise to eminence. On the other hand, if a lad of genius is put to a servile or mean occupation, his spirit will be broken, and he will feel degraded in his own estimation. His mind, not being in conformity with his situation, will be often diverted from that steady attention which is essential to success.

A learned writer has justly remarked, that "many a man who makes an incorrect and unfortunate trader, would have been an ornament to a liberal profession; and the cause of his failure may be that very turn of mind which would have raised

* Nullius addictus jurare in verba magistri,